

CHRISTOPHER S. PORRINO
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, New Jersey 07101
Attorney for the Board of Nursing

By: Barbara J.K. Lopez
Deputy Attorney General
(973) 648-7454

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
JEAN MARIE PUORRO, RN	:	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
License #26NR13939600	:	OF LICENSE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN	:	
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	
	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information indicating the following:

1. Jean Marie Puorro ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse ("RN") in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all relevant times. (Exhibit A).

2. Respondent entered into a Private Letter Agreement ("PLA") with the Board on November 18, 2014. The PLA required,

in part, that Respondent enroll in and comply with the Board's designated intervention program, the Recovery and Monitoring Program ("RAMP"), to undergo evaluation, monitoring, and treatment, including random screens. The agreement, which was to remain private and confidential unless and until the Board received reliable information that Respondent had violated any term, was to have the force and effect of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4. (Exhibit B).

3. Respondent failed to check-in daily on September 24, 2015, and six times from February 5, 2016 through February 24, 2016 with the online monitoring system which randomly schedules screens. (Exhibit C).

4. Respondent failed to undergo randomly scheduled drug screens on February 4, 2016 and February 10, 2016. (Exhibit C).

5. Respondent failed to refrain from the use of potentially addictive substances as evidenced by positive drug screens on October 26, 2015 (alcohol), November 2, 2015 (alcohol), November 6, 2015 (tramadol), January 7, 2016 (alcohol), and January 14, 2016 (oxycodone, oxymorphone). (Exhibit C).

6. Respondent failed to provide prescriptions for any of the drugs for which she tested positive, despite repeated

requests by RAMP staff. (Exhibit C).

7. Respondent ceased participating with RAMP, failed to follow the recommendations of RAMP, and failed to respond to RAMP's efforts to redirect her towards compliance. (Exhibit C).

8. Respondent failed to successfully complete RAMP and was discharged from RAMP as noncompliant on February 24, 2016. (Exhibit C).

9. RAMP cannot assure the Board or the public that Respondent is safe to practice. (Exhibit C).

10. The Board received a flagging notice indicating that Respondent was arrested on May 15, 2016 by the Hudson County Sheriff's Office and charged with Burglary By Entering Structure, Theft By Unlawful Taking/Disposition, and Knowingly Possess Prescription Legend Drug. (Exhibit D).

11. Respondent failed to notify the Board in writing that she was arrested on May 15, 2016. (Exhibit D).

12. On August 11, 2016, a communication was sent to Respondent at her address of record by overnight and regular mail, and also via electronic mail, advising Respondent that the Board had received information indicating that she was not in compliance with the PLA, and with her agreement with RAMP. Respondent was further advised to provide the Board with proof

of any inaccuracy in that information within two weeks. The communication was sent to Respondent's address on file with the Board (in Cranford, New Jersey). (Exhibit E). No response was received.

13. The PLA signed by Respondent provided for automatic suspension of Respondent's nursing license upon receipt of reliable information indicating that Respondent had violated any term of the private letter agreement. The agreement states that Respondent may, upon notice to the Board, request a hearing to contest the automatic suspension; however, at any such hearing, the sole issue shall be whether any of the information received regarding Respondent's violation of the agreement was materially false. The Board also reserved the right to bring further disciplinary action. (Exhibit B).

14. Respondent violated the PLA by: failing to check-in daily on September 24, 2015, and six times from February 5, 2016 through February 24, 2016, with the online monitoring system which randomly schedules screens; failing to undergo randomly scheduled screens on February 4, 2016 and February 10, 2016; failing to refrain from the use of potentially addictive substances as evidenced by positive drug screens on October 26, 2015 (alcohol), November 2, 2015 (alcohol), November 6, 2015

(tramadol), January 7, 2016 (alcohol), and January 14, 2016 (oxycodone, oxymorphone); failing to provide prescriptions for any of the drugs for which she tested positive; failing to follow the recommendations of RAMP; failing to respond to RAMP's efforts to re-direct her towards compliance; failing to successfully complete RAMP and being discharged from RAMP as noncompliant on February 24, 2016; and failing to notify the Board in writing that she was arrested on May 15, 2016. Each violation of the PLA constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and automatic suspension of her license as provided in the PLA.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 16th day of September, 2016,
HEREBY ORDERED that:

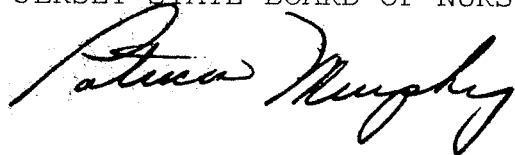
1. Respondent's license to practice nursing in the State of New Jersey is hereby suspended for her violation of the terms of the private letter agreement as set forth above, which is a violation of a Board Order within the intendment of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.4 and N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

2. Respondent may, under the terms of the private letter agreement, request a hearing, upon notice, on the sole issue of whether information received that Respondent has failed to

comply with the terms of the private letter agreement was materially false.

3. In the event that Respondent seeks reinstatement of her New Jersey nursing license at any future time, the Board will not entertain an application for reinstatement from Respondent unless and until Respondent completes a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse evaluation under the auspices of RAMP, demonstrates that she is fit and competent to practice nursing, that she is in full compliance with any agreement with RAMP, that RAMP supports her return to practice, demonstrates that she is up to date with her continuing education, and in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the private letter agreement.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Murphy", written over a horizontal line.

By:

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President